CHARLTON COMICS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
Strange Suspense STORIES
12
NO. 3 SEPT. CDC
"THE UNIVERSAL SOLVENT"
BRIGIT? BRIGIT, WHERE ARE YOU? SHE... SHE'S DISSOLVED INTO THIN AIR!
NICHOLAS A. ASCIA

SKIN SURFACE DISFIGURED BY PIMPLES? BLACKHEADS? FRECKLES?

Blemishes Fade As Skin Clears

AMAZING NEW SKIN CREAM SO POWERFUL IT STARTS HELPING TO CLEAR EPIDERMIS THE INSTANT APPLIED!

Works with Nature Replacing Epidermis Marked by Surface Pimples and Blackheads with a New Fresh, Clearer, Softer, Smoother Complexion!

It takes POWER to dry up pimples ... to loosen blackheads ... to fade freckles ... to clear away blemished epidermis (skin surface). So why mess around with watery lotions, weak medicated make-ups ... smelly salves and greasy ointments when it's FAYD SKIN CREAM that you need. Fayd contains a powerful clearing and skin whitening discovery that works strong and fast on the externally caused pimples, blackheads, blemisher marks, freckles and spots that blot and dot the top skin layer. In 7 days Fayd may make your complexion so much more clear, fair and blemish free you want to jump for happiness. Fayd makes the skin softer, smoother and more glowing with the fresh new look of youth. And occasional use of Fayd helps keep your skin looking more lovely everyday to your pride and joy.

JUST TRY FOR 7 NIGHTS

FOLLOW EASY DIRECTIONS

Read booklet and do exactly as it says. It's easy ... and so rewarding!

SPREAD ON THIN FILM

Just apply over face, neck, or affected area for 7 nights.

WORKS WHILE YOU SLEEP

Then see amazing clear results or return for your money back!

SEND FOR YOUR DEMONSTRATION TODAY

If the pimple cream you are using works too slow, don't wait but send for Fayd Skin Cream. Let this actual home demonstration show you what Fayd is ... how it works fast ... and why so many boys, girls, men and women use it, for outbreaks ... for freckles ... for lightening, brightening and clearing the skin. Fayd acts on both oily skin areas around the nose and also on dry skin areas. It refines enlarged pores. Helps stop many new blemishes before they start. So take advantage of this amazing home demonstration offer. Mail the coupon today.

MAIL THIS NO-RISK COUPON

Fayd, called by many "nature's clear skin cream" is pure white and won't stain pillows. Delightful, easy, it has no medicated odor, washes off completely, leaves skin feeling so new that make up looks far more natural ... If you need make-up at all! For your trial and approval we offer the full size 3 oz. jar Fayd for only $3.00 full price postpaid. Use the entire supply and then if you aren't satisfied, simply return the empty jar for your money back. Accept this test at our risk offer. Clip the coupon, and mail today.

IMPORTANT

If the coupon has already been clipped, send order with your name and address. Ask for Fayd's $3.00 Trial Offer. Mail to Fleetwood Co., Dept D20 427 W. Randolph St., Chicago, Illinois 60606

THE FLEETWOOD CO. Dept D20
427 W. Randolph St
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Send the 3 oz. jar of FAYD SKIN CREAM as checked below. As advertised, you guarantee I can return the empty jar at any time and you will refund my purchase price.

☐ $3.00 enclosed. Send postage paid.

☐ Enclosed is $1.00 deposit. Send C.O.D. for balance of $2.00 plus postage.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

STRANGE SUSPENSE STORIES Vol. 1 No. 3, September 1968

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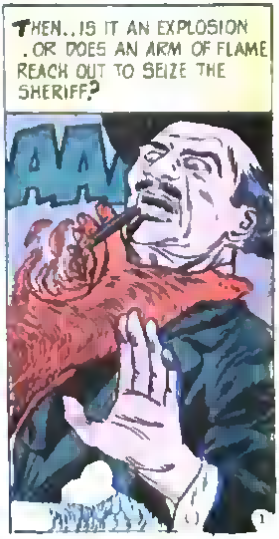
HE'S BILLED AS 'DANTE THE MAGNIFICENT' THE GREATEST FIRE-EATER WHO EVER LIVED! CAN THE THINGS HE DOES UP THERE ON THE STAGE BE MERE TRICKS OF HIS PROFESSION? IS THAT FLAMING GIANT AN OPTICAL ILLUSION? ONLY DANTE KNOWS (OR POSSIBLY

DANTE'S PEOPLE!

EDITOR SAL GENTILE · SCRIPT JOE GILL · ART PAT BOVETTE · © 1977



THE SIDESHOW TENT QUICKLY EMPTIES.. AND 'DANTE THE MAG NIFICENT' RUSHES TO APOLOGIZE TO THE SHERIFF!
THAT WASN'T JUST A FLAME! I FELT POWER IN IT! I WAS BEING CHOKED!
YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM SHOCK, SHERIFF! THIS WAS MY LAST PERFORMANCE ANYWAY! I'M LEAVING THE CIRCUS! I WISH TO EXPERIMENT FURTHER WITH CREATIVE FIRE-EATING!
THIS IS DANTE'S LABORATORY... AN OLD BUILDING IN A RUNDOWN PART OF TOWN ..
ARE YOU DANTE? MY FATHER SAYS YOU'RE PROB'LY A FAKE!
TELL YOUR FATHER HE SHOULDN'T PERPETUATE HIS OWN IGNORANCE!
AND TELL HIM THIS TOO, SONNY!
HOLY HOHOKUS! I'M SCRAMMIN'!
THAT NIGHT:
THE OBJECT IS TO CREATE A FLUID, WHICH WHEN IGNITED..
WILL ENDURE FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME! THEY ARE WEIGHTLESS AND HAVE CONTINUITY OF MOVEMENT!

DANTE'S ASSISTANT, A FORMER CARNIVAL WORKER, HELPS HIM WITH THE DIFFERENT INFLAMMABLE FLUIDS!
I TRIED FIRE-EATIN' ONCE WITH THE CLARK-LYDEN CARNIVAL AN' SINGED THE HAIR OFFA MY HEAD!
A GOOD FIRE EATER MUST DEVELOP AN AFFINITY FOR FLAME!
AN AMATEUR MUST NEVER EXPERIMENT WITH FIRE! IT CAN BE FATAL TO EVEN AN EXPERIENCED PRACTITIONER!
UGH! JUST SMELLING THAT STUFF MAKES ME SICK!
OH, I FIND IT HAS A VERY PLEASANT AROMA!
THAT 'UD KILL AN ORDINARY MAN!
NOW, FOR THE TEST! ARE YOU READY?
ONE O' THESE DAYS, YOU'LL BLOW UP LIKE A BIG BOMB! I'M LEAVIN'!
DON'T DANTE! I I'LL DO ANYTHIN' YUH SAY!
THEN GET BACK TO WORK...

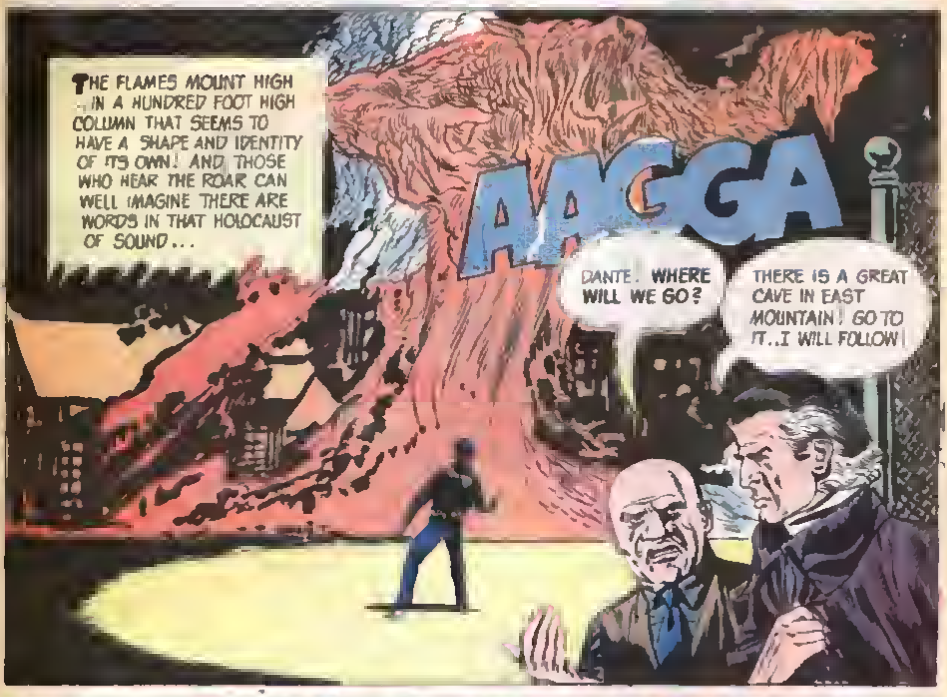
I MUST PURCHASE SUPPLIES, CRAGIR! IF YOU DO NOT WORK WELL, I WILL KNOW IT!
DON'T WORRY, DANTE - I'LL DO MY JOB!
BUT...
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE! AND I'M NOT LEAVING EMPTY HANDED EITHER!
THERE IS THE METAL BOX IN WHICH DANTE KEEPS HIS CASH!
NO, CRAGIR..YOU CAN'T LEAVE..WITH THE MONEY... OR.. WITHOUT IT...
YAAA! MY HAND SEEMS TO BE ON FIRE! THAT DEVIL SET A TRAP! I'LL LEAVE WITHOUT THE MONEY!
AAAH

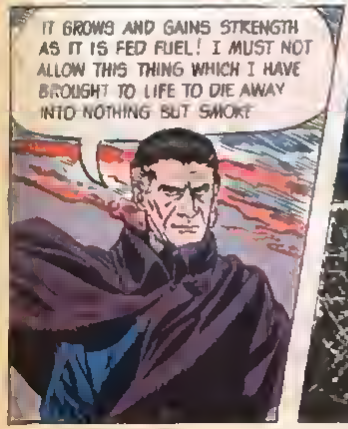
NO! NO! GET AWAY FROM ME!
CRAGIR! YOU LAZY CREATURE. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
OHO! SO THAT'S WHAT YOU DID! WELL, WELL! SO LET'S TEACH CRAGIR NOT TO STEAL FROM DANTE IN THE FUTURE!!
YOU TREACHEROUS WRETCH! I'LL TEACH YOU A BADLY NEEDED LESSON!
NOT WITH FIRE! ANYTHING BUT FIRE!
YOU FEAR FIRE, CRAGIR? GOOD! IT IS ALWAYS WISE TO SELECT THE PROPER WEAPON!
FEEL IT, CRAGIR?
NOW, THIEF! WILL YOU EVER STEAL AGAIN?
NO, DANTE! STOP... I'LL SERVE YOU FAITHFULLY!

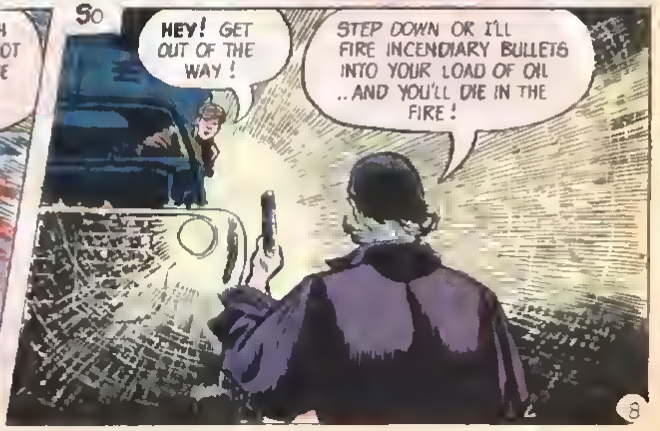
YOU ARE A DEVIL!
I HAVE THE FLAME TO SERVE ME, CRAGIR! DO NOT CROSS ME AGAIN!
NOW, WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!
THAT NIGHT:
GET AWAY FROM THAT WINDOW YOU SCALAWAG! GET ON HOME WHERE YOU BELONG!
GEE OFFICER, AM I GLAD YOU'RE HERE! THAT GUY DANTE CAN MAKE ANYTHING OUTA THE FLAMES HE BLOWS!
YOU GO ON HOME! I'LL CHECK ON MR. DANTE!
A LIVING CREATURE HAS BEEN CREATED FROM DANTE'S SPECIAL KIND OF FIRE! IT HAS A MALIGNANT MIND OF ITS OWN...IT REACHES FOR THAT WRETCH, CRAGIR, AND THE SCREAMING VICTIM FEELS SEARING HEAT..
AFTER HIM, MY FRIEND! DO NOT KILL..JUST HOLD HIM FOR YOUR CREATOR, DANTE!
I QUIT! I'M LEAVIN HERE.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I'VE NEVER SEEN A THING SO MONSTROUS AS THAT IN MY LIFE

IF IT'S AN ILLUSION, THEN BOTH CRAGIR AND THE POLICEMAN PERCEIVE THE SAME THING..AND THE LAW OFFICER UNHESITATINGLY USES HIS REVOLVER TO BREAK THE WINDOW AND SHOOT!
DANTE...YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
POLICE! DISAPPEAR, FLAME FRIEND!
AAAAA
I DON'T NEED YOU NOW! I ORDER YOU TO VANISH!
PLEASE! I'LL GO TO PRISON IF YOU HARM HIM!
IF YOU CAN'T STOP THAT THING I CAN!
DON'T SHOOT AGAIN! IT'S DANGEROUS TO FIRE A GUN IN HERE!
A RICOCHETING BULLET SLAMS INTO THE BOILING STILL.. INSIDE, HIGHLY COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS IMMEDIATELY IGNITE..AND A RIVER OF FIRE FLOWS ONTO THE GREASE IMPREGNATED FLOOR OF THE OLD BUILDING!
RUN!
FOOM
CLANG

I DIDN'T EXPECT WE'D GET OUT ALIVE!
LOOK! I WANT THE WORLD TO SEE MY CREATION!


THE FLAMES MOUNT HIGH -IN A HUNDRED FOOT HIGH COLUMN THAT SEEMS TO HAVE A SHAPE AND IDENTITY OF ITS OWN! AND THOSE WHO HEAR THE ROAR CAN WELL IMAGINE THERE ARE WORDS IN THAT HOLOCAUST OF SOUND...
AAGGA
DANTE. WHERE WILL WE GO?
THERE IS A GREAT CAVE IN EAST MOUNTAIN! GO TO IT..I WILL FOLLOW!


IT GROWS AND GAINS STRENGTH AS IT IS FED FUEL! I MUST NOT ALLOW THIS THING WHICH I HAVE BROUGHT TO LIFE TO DIE AWAY INTO NOTHING BUT SMOKE


SO
HEY! GET OUT OF THE WAY!
STEP DOWN OR I'LL FIRE INCENDIARY BULLETS INTO YOUR LOAD OF OIL ..AND YOU'LL DIE IN THE FIRE!

WITH 3000 GALS OF FUEL OIL DANTE HEADS FOR EAST MOUNTAIN...
I CAN DRIVE THE TRUCK RIGHT INTO THE CAVE ....
THAT ROCK. I CAN'T STOP.
OIL
NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME, DANTE, THE FIRE-EATER, FEARS THE FLAMES! HE TRIES DESPERATELY TO ESCAPE! BUT, SUDDENLY..A LONG ARM OF FLAME LICKS OUT AND
STILL SCREAMING NO! NO! DANTE IS RAISED HIGH IN THE ARMS OF THE FLAME FRIEND IF YOU CAN BELIEVE SUCH FANTASY. A VICTIM OF HIS OWN IMAGINATION AS SO MANY OF US ARE! HEHEEEHEEE!
NOOOO
THE END

BOYS Here's a Swell Way to Make $1 to $5 WEEKLY

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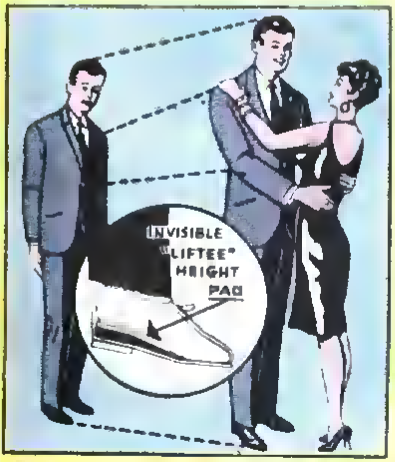
Now You Can Be TALLER Instantly!



By at least 2 FULL INCHES with amazing new invisible "LIFTEE" HEIGHT INCREASE PADS

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Pay postman on delivery, only $1.98 plus postage per pair of "LIFTEE" HEIGHT INCREASE PADS. Or send only $1.98 with order and we pay postage. (2 Pairs $3.50 3 Pairs $5.00) 10 DAY TRIAL MUST SATISFY OR MONEY WILL BE REFUNDED

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Box 608 Church Street, New York, N.Y. 10008

Rush my "Liftee" Height Increase Pads in the size checked. I will pay postman on delivery only $1.98 plus postage. I must be satisfied or I can return the pads within 10 day trial for a full refund.

Check Box — State Shoe Size

☐ Mens Shoe Size..... ☐ Ladies Shoe Size.....

☐ Check here if you wish to save postage by sending only $1.98 with coupon. Send money back guarantee ☐ 2 Pairs $3.50 ☐ 3 Pairs $5.00

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY..... STATE..... ZIP.....

JOHNNY BRIGGS

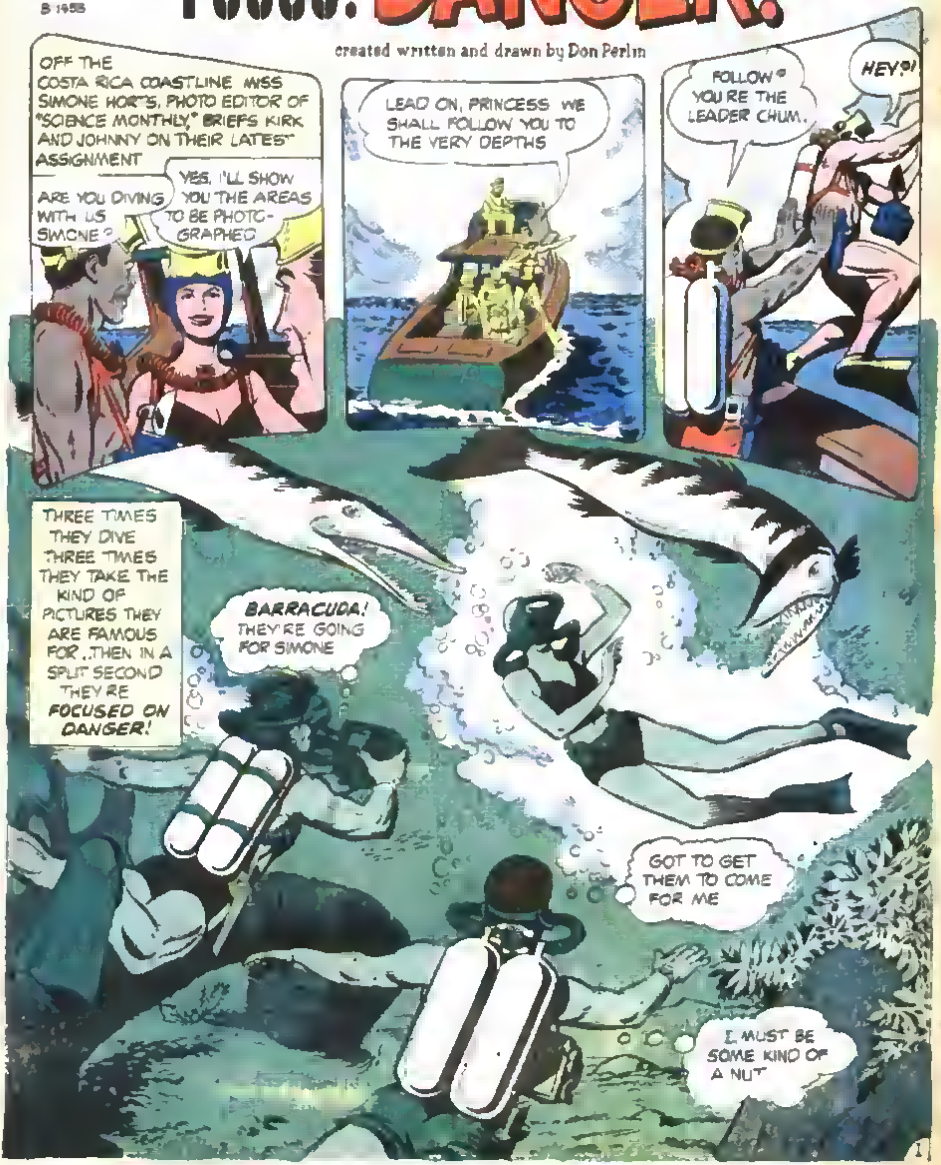
WHERE OTHERS FEAR TO VENTURE – WHERE OTHERS CANNOT GAIN ACCESS, THE TEAM OF JOHNNY BRIGGS AND KIRK RICHARDS TAKE THEIR CAMERAS AND BRING BACK PICTURES WHICH HAVE BROUGHT THEM WORLD WIDE FAME. DANGER HAS BECOME THEIR CONSTANT COMPANION-DANGER HAS BECOME THEIR WAY OF LIFE! NOW IN THE BRILLIANT CARIBBEAN SUN JOHNNY AND KIRK WILL FIND "THEIR CAMERA SETTING READING"

KIRK RICHARDS

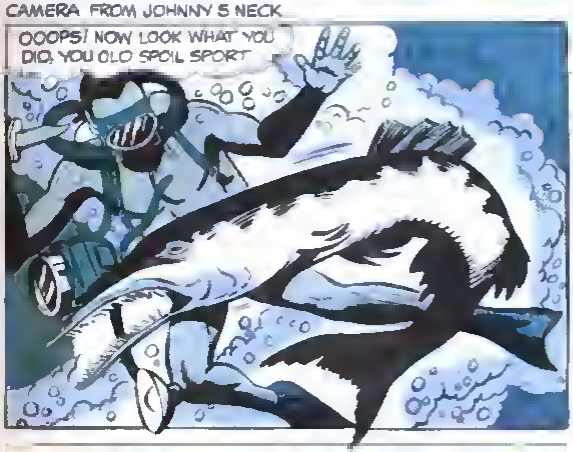
B 1958

FOCUS: DANGER!

created written and drawn by Don Perlin



JOHNNY SCORES NEXT. BUT WITH ONE LAST SPASMATIC EFFORT OF ITS WHIP-LIKE BODY, THE VICIOUS CREATURE TEARS THE CAMERA FROM JOHNNY'S NECK



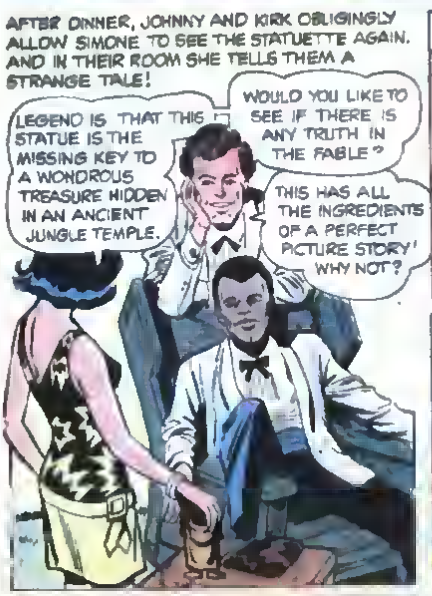
JOHNNY DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TROUBLE FINDING THE CAMERA IT'S LYING NEXT TO A DULLY GLEAMING STATUETTE

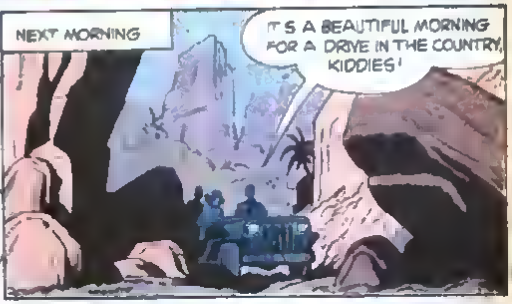
KIRK RETURNS TO SURFACE WITH SIMONE WHILE JOHNNY FOLLOWS THE CAMERA INTO THE MURKY DEPTHS

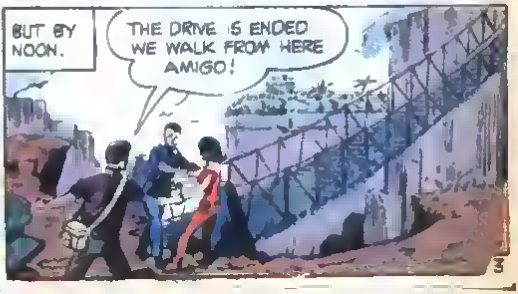
ON BOARD..
HE REMINDS ME OF A FAT KID I WENT TO SCHOOL WITH. AFTER WE GRADUATED WE DISCOVERED ARNOLD WAS THIN AS A RAIL. ALL THOSE YEARS HE HAD BEEN STEALING BASKETBALLS FROM THE SCHOOL GYM.
IT'S THE STATUE...

IT IT'S THE KEY TO THE TREASURE! I MUST GET IT!
KIRK, JOHNNY, YOU MUST HAVE DINNER WITH ME TONIGHT SO THAT I MAY PROPERLY THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE!

BEFORE JOINING KIRK AND JOHNNY LATER SIMONE MAKES ONE SHORT STOP
CARLOS, DO AS I SAY AND WE WILL LIVE LIKE ROYALTY FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES!
AS YOU WISH, QUERIDA. I STILL THINK WE SHOULD KILL THEM NOW AND TAKE THE IDOL. HOWEVER, MIGUEL AND I WILL DO AS YOU SAY.
SI, SENORITA.


AFTER DINNER, JOHNNY AND KIRK OBLIGINGLY ALLOW SIMONE TO SEE THE STATUETTE AGAIN. AND IN THEIR ROOM SHE TELLS THEM A STRANGE TALE!
LEGEND IS THAT THIS STATUE IS THE MISSING KEY TO A WONDROUS TREASURE HIDDEN IN AN ANCIENT JUNGLE TEMPLE.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY TRUTH IN THE FABLE?
THIS HAS ALL THE INGREDIENTS OF A PERFECT PICTURE STORY! WHY NOT?


NEXT MORNING
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL MORNING FOR A DRIVE IN THE COUNTRY, KIDDIES!

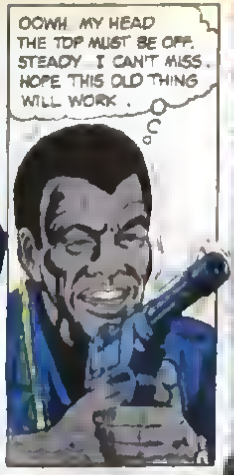

BUT BY NOON.
THE DRIVE IS ENDED WE WALK FROM HERE AMIGO!

DON'T BOUNCE WHEN YOU WALK, JOHNNY
ME BOUNCE? I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO GET SEA-SICK!
THE TEMPLE OF THE ANCIENT ONES IS JUST BEYOND THESE ROCKS, MY FRIENDS!
THEN THEY SEE IT! THE INCREDIBLE MAGNIFICENCE OF AN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION
THERE! THE TREASURE IS WITHIN THOSE MASSIVE WALLS!
DID THAT FABLE GIVE YOU ANY CLUES WHERE TO START LOOKING BEAUTIFUL?
THEN, FROM THE SHADOWS...
STOP WHERE YOU ARE, SENORES! SIMONE, TAKE THE STATUETTE!
WHOOOPS!!

YOUR PRINCESS TURNED OUT TO BE A WITCH.
PRINCESS, HOW . HOW COULD YOU?
SORRY HONEY, BUT THIS PRINCESS IS GOING TO LIVE LIKE A QUEEN!
STEP ASIDE, SIMONE, MIGUEL AND I SHALL ATTEND TO THE GRINGOS PRONTO!
HOLD IT, AMIGO! IF IT WEREN'T FOR US, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE THAT STATUE! AT LEAST, YOU CAN SHOW US WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!
YEAH, MAN, AT LEAST.
YOU PLAY WITH CARLOS. YOU TRY TO STALL. BUT I WILL ENJOY THE LOOK OF ENVY ON YOUR FACE WHEN YOU SEE THE TREASURE THEN I WILL KILL YOU
CLIMBING THE LONG FLIGHT OF STAIRS, THEY ENTER THE STONE CHAMBER AT THE TOP
GENTLEMEN OBSERVE THAT WALL WHEN I PLACE THE STATUE IN THE NICHE!
AS THEY WATCH, THE WALL RISES
THAT SKELETON... A WORLD WAR II NAZI!
LOOK, OLD BUDDY---THE ART TREASURES STOLEN BY THE NAZIS FROM THE CONQUERED NATIONS IN WORLD WAR I BUT HOW DID THE PRINCESS KNOW ABOUT THIS?

WE DO NOT WISH YOU TO DIE OF CURIOUSITY A BULLET IS QUICKER! MY FATHER WAS THE NAZI SUBMARINE COMMANDER WHO BROUGHT THE TREASURE HERE. CARLOS' FATHER WAS WITH THE NATIVES WHO HELPED CARRY THE TREASURE TO THE TEMPLE. THERE WAS A FIGHT. MANY ON BOTH SIDES WERE KILLED.
INCLUDING JUNIOR...
SOME OF THE SAILORS ESCAPED AND MANAGED TO REACH SHORE WITH THE STATUE BUT THE NATIVES SANK THEIR RAFT BEFORE IT REACHED THE SUBMARINE. THE STATUE REMAINED WHERE IT WAS UNTIL YOU BROUGHT IT TO ME, JOHNNY.
I'M BEGINNING TO SEE THE LIGHT! THE LIGHT, BUDDY... YOU DIG?
YEAH MAN.. I DIG!
NOW, JOHNNY! THEY CAN'T SEE!
OOOWF
NOBODY IS GOING TO SPOIL THINGS FOR THIS LITTLE GIRL!
WHILE TIN CANS CLATTER INSIDE JOHNNY'S SKULL, CARLOS SHOVES A RIFLE AT KIRK
NOW YOU DIE, GRINGO! NO MORE TRICKS!

SORRY, HERR BONES, I NEED THIS MORE THAN YOU DO RIGHT NOW


OOWH. MY HEAD THE TOP MUST BE OFF. STEADY. I CAN'T MISS. HOPE THIS OLD THING WILL WORK.

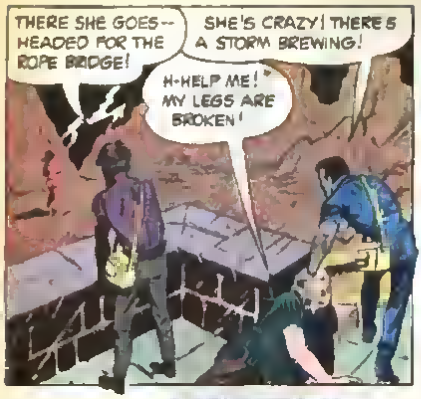
K-POW
KRAK

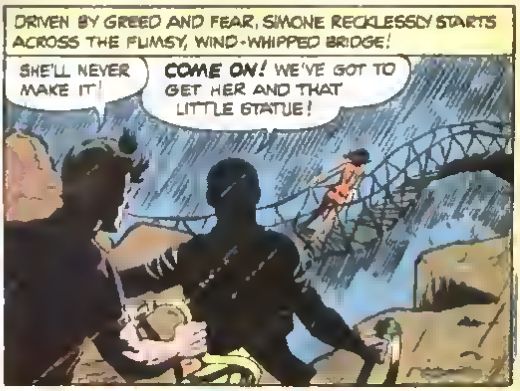
CARLOS IS DEAD, MIGUEL! I HAVE THE STATUE! RUN!
KIRK--KIRK, YOU ALL RIGHT?
FAIR TO MIDDLIN'... FAIR TO MIDDLIN'!

THAT DAME NEARLY DECAPITATED ME! THAT WALL CLOSED WHEN SHE TOOK OFF WITH THE IDOL!
WE BETTER GO AFTER THEM

THERE THEY ARE!

SIMONE, H-HELP ME! MY ..MY LEGS ARE BROKEN!
YOU FOOL! I HAVE THE STATUE! I DON'T NEED YOU ANY MORE!


THERE SHE GOES-- HEADED FOR THE ROPE BRIDGE!
SHE'S CRAZY! THERE'S A STORM BREWING!
H-HELP ME! MY LEGS ARE BROKEN!


DRIVEN BY GREED AND FEAR, SIMONE RECKLESSLY STARTS ACROSS THE FLIMSY, WIND-WHIPPED BRIDGE!
SHE'LL NEVER MAKE IT!
COME ON! WE'VE GOT TO GET HER AND THAT LITTLE STATUE!

THE TERRIFIED GIRL CLUTCHES DESPERATELY BUT HER FEAR IS NOT AS GREAT AS HER GREED AS SHE HANGS ONTO THE IDOL!
HOLD ON, SIMONE HOLD ON..
STAY PUT.. WE'RE COMIN'

PRINCESS GIVE JOHNNY THE IDOL
GIVE IT TO ME SIMONE!
NO! IT'S MINE!

WATCH IT, SIMONE!
HELP!!!

LET THE IDOL GO AND HANG ONTO ME WITH BOTH HANDS

SAVE ME, I'LL GIVE YOU HALF THE TREASURE! HELP ME!
YOU LITTLE IDIOT--- DROP THE IDOL I CAN'T HOLD YOU MUCH LONGER!

BUT SIMONE REFUSES TO GIVE UP HER DREAMS OF VAST WEALTH, AND THE SHRIEKING WIND HURLS THE BRIDGE IN GREAT, BONE SHAKING ARCS UNTIL
EEEEEIIII!!

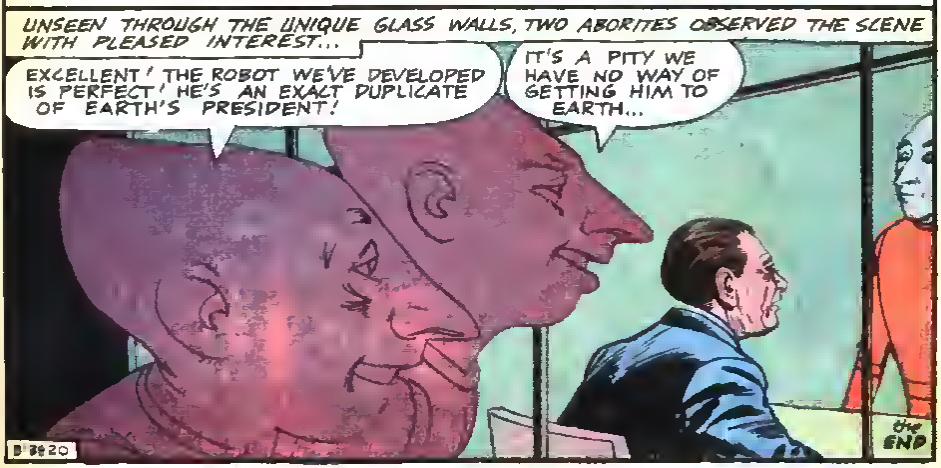
I COULDN'T HOLD HER! THE WIND WAS TOO MUCH!
I KNOW KIRK, I COULDN'T EITHER. WE BETTER GET OFF THIS THING AND TURN MIGUEL AND THE WHOLE MESS OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES

A FEW DAYS LATER AT THE AIRPORT
WELL, WE GOT PAID FOR THE UNDER WATER FIX— WE'D BETTER PAY THE CHECK AND GET ON OUR PLANE...
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, MR. BRIGGS

I HAVE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF PAYING YOUR CHECK AND CANCELING YOUR PLANE RESERVATION. YOU GENTLEMEN WILL ACCOMPANY ME ON MY PRIVATE PLANE.

NO QUESTIONS, PLEASE. ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS MY NAME IS FRANKLIN F FRANKLIN AND MY EMPLOYER HAS SENT ME FOR YOU!
WELL, DEAR READER, WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED MEETING JOHNNY AND KIRK. OH YES, OF MR. FRANKLIN F FRANKLIN. WE CAN TELL YOU THE "F" STANDS FOR FRANKLIN
END OPUS 1

THE PRESIDENT



SIMBA MKUBWA

The Africa I knew is not the Africa of today For I am a realistic man and I recognize that change does come - sometimes for better and sometimes for worse. But in this case I would say the changes are on the brighter side New nations have appeared on the map And many old friends of mine hold high office I am going back to the land I love so very much

For a quarter of a century I was in charge of many a safari So first let me tell you something about the language I speak Swahili Safari is an Arabic verb in the language and it means journey or travel Other similar words are derived from it Thus we find that msafiri means traveller and the noun Safari means a journey or the personnel of a caravan Mnyampara means, strictly speaking, the head man of a caravan or safari Mpagazi also meant the porter of a caravan Piga hema is to pitch a tent Kambi means a camp Thus when I say to my head man or Mpagazi Tafuta mahali pazuri penya maji pa Kupiga hema,' that means Look for a place having water to pitch the tent at And later when I wish to praise my head man, I say "Ninapaona mahali pa kambi yetu, panampendeza," - that means I see the site of our camp, that pleases me did his hunting only with a camera My only task was to see he didn't get too close to a few dangerous animals I was back at headquarters, when my boss, John Winto, spoke to me

You know I am really new to all of this I am taking over for my late beloved uncle The natives were talking about Simba Mkubwa That he is in the territory of the Ng'ombia people Can you tell me something about this lion?"

"You will have to learn Swahili," I smiled. "Simba means lion. And Mkubwa means big Put them together and you get a Big Lion There is a legend connected with this beast Seems there was a very warlike Bantu chief A witch doctor put a curse on him. His soul was to go into the body of a big lion. In fact, the biggest lion ever to be seen here. But he would be punished for evil deeds Even though he looked like a killer beast he could never kill any human being or animal On the other hand he would be hunted by people "

"You believe that kind of a fairy tale?" asked John Winto.

"When you have been here in Africa as long as I have been," I told him, "you just accept a lot of things without question This is the last year of the curse The lion has managed to stay alive. Of course, that means a lot who know the story just refuse to hunt him If the lion survives, the soul returns to the dead Bantu chief who will then find peace "

'We leave tomorrow Get the porters ready I want to meet this lion," my boss told me

We were out on the plains for six days The runners and the beaters were out looking for Simba Mkubwa. But, as I sensed it, without trying very hard to achieve success And then I picked up the tracks of the lion We followed him for half an hour Then suddenly we faced him John Winto took aim with his rifle "Don't kill him" I warned. "He isn't harming you. Leave him alone "

One of my porters aimed a rock at John Winto's head and it found the mark. Actually my boss never knew what hit him He stumbled, discharged his rifle and fell on the ground Next thing he knew, the lion was right next to him, looking him straight in the eyes

"Don't move," I shouted "You are safe '

I figured later on that John Winto was really paralyzed with fear He started at the lion as the beast went around him in a sort of circle as though trying to figure out what kind of a man this was Then the beast backed away slowly - and vanished into thin air

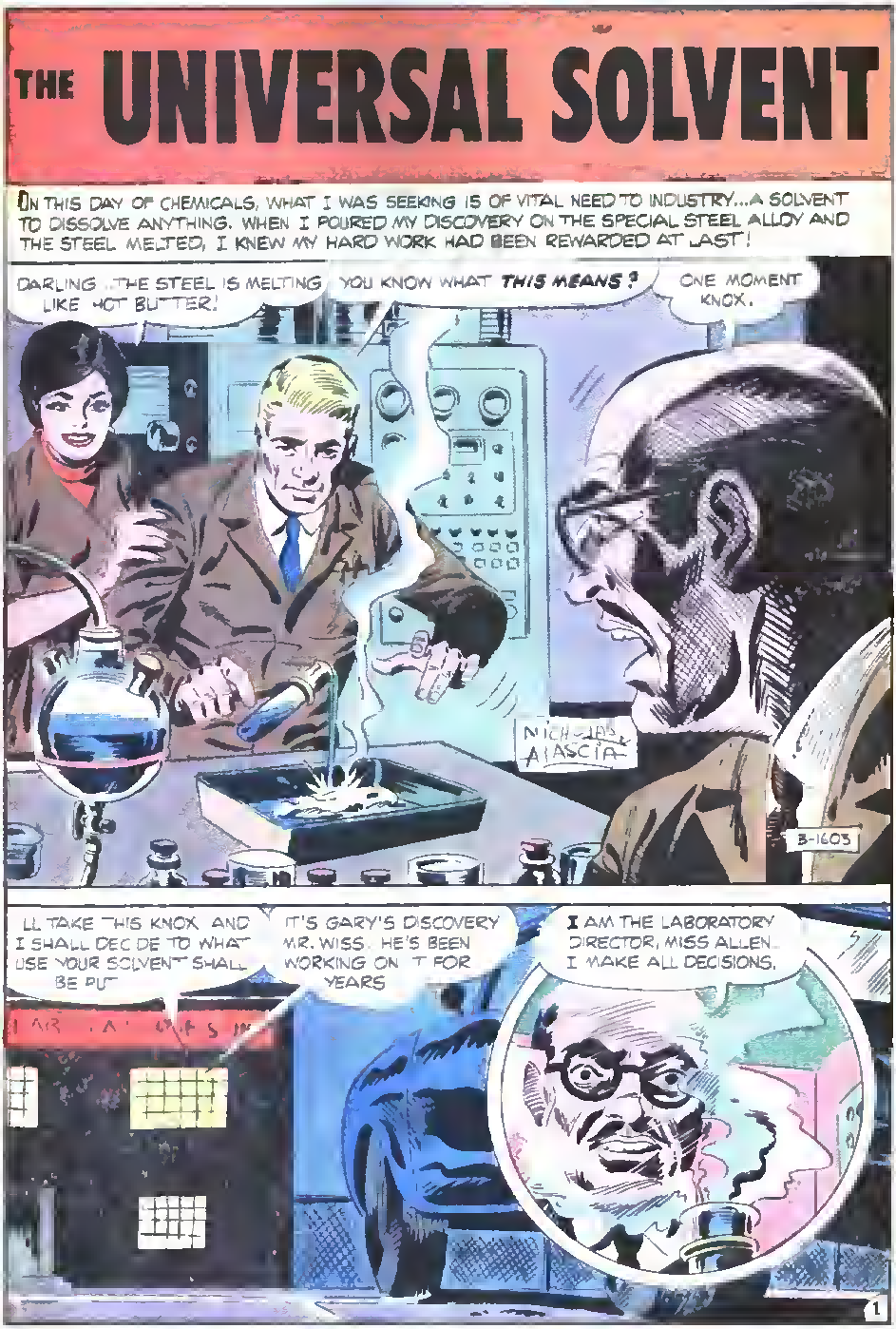
"Am I crazy?" shouted my boss "Did you see what happened?"

"I did," were my reassuring words "That means the curse is ended The beast no longer exists. The soul goes back to its owner '

And the strangest thing of it all was that John Winto never mentioned this event to anyone or even discussed it with me ever after

• • • • • • • •

THE UNIVERSAL SOLVENT



THIS IS YOUR NOTEBOOK KNOX? HMMM.. I SEE IT CONTAINS THE FORMULA FOR YOUR SOLVENT.
I SHALL KEEP IT, OF COURSE.
HOLD ON, WISS! THAT'S MINE!
THAT FORMULA IS INCORRECT. THERE'S ONE CHANGE THAT..
YOU THINK ME A FOOL, KNOX? THIS IS THE FORMULA.. NOW GET OUT!
ARE WE FIRED, GARY? IS THAT WHAT WISS MEANT WHEN HE TOLD US TO GET OUT?
NO, PAULA WISS IS TOO SHREWD TO LET GO OF ME SO EASILY
THAT'S A DANGEROUS SOLUTION IN THERE PAULA. WISS WILL QUICKLY LEARN HE NEEDS ALL THE HELP HE CAN GET WITH IT
HIDEOUS ODOR...I WONDER HOW EFFECTIVE HIS SOLVENT IS.
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY GLASSES?
PLASTIC GLASSES...NATURALLY THEY'D MELT EASILY. AND MY SHIRT AND TIE MAN-MADE FIBERS TO BE EXPECTED!
2

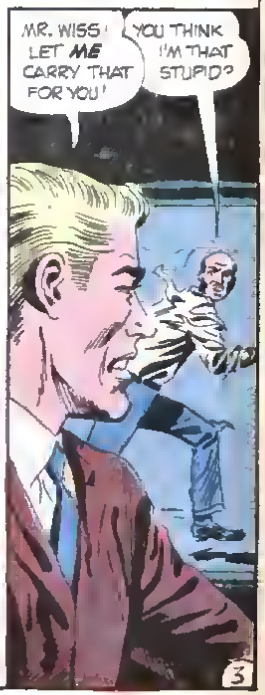
I EXPLAINED TO PAULA THAT WISS WOULD HAVE TROUBLE COMPLETING MY EXPERIMENTS...AND AT THE MOMENT I WAS TELLING HER, HE WAS HAVING TROUBLE.
HOW LONG SHOULD THE SOLVENT BE BOILED? THESE BEAKERS ARE OF SPECIAL HEAT-RESISTANT GLASS BUT...
DRAT IT!

WHAT'S HAPPENING? THE EQUIPMENT SEEMS TO BE AFFECTED BY THE STEAM FROM THE FLAGON.

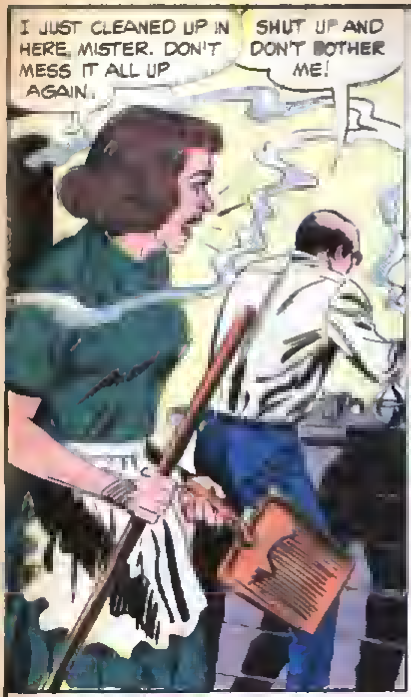
GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
WHOOM

I SHOULDN'T HAVE PERMITTED KNOX'S SOLVENT TO BOIL!
WHAM
I SAVED SOME AND I HAVE HIS FORMULA.

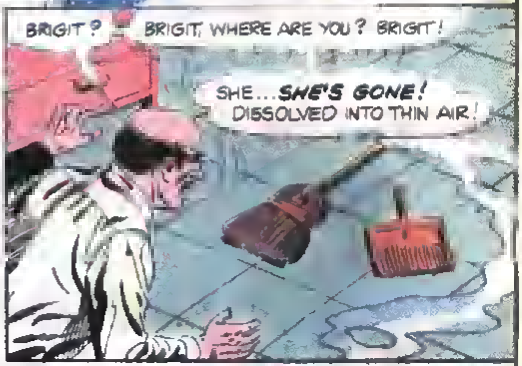
JUST AS PAULA AND I WERE ABOUT TO DRIVE AWAY I HEARD THE EXPLOSIONS...AND SAW THE BIG LAB WAS ON FIRE!
BARROOM
COME ON, PAULA... MR. WISS MIGHT BE IN THERE


MR. WISS! LET ME CARRY THAT FOR YOU!
YOU THINK I'M THAT STUPID?

THIS STUFF IS MINE, KNOX!
DON'T INHALE THE FUMES, WISS THEY MAY BE TOXIC!
YOU'RE TRYING TO FRIGHTEN ME, KNOX... BUT NOTHING CAN FRIGHTEN ME NOW. YOU REALIZE WHAT I'VE GOT HERE?
THIS SOLVENT WILL MAKE ME WEALTHY... BUT IT ALSO MEANS UNLIMITED POWER!
HOW DANGEROUS IS IT GARY
IN LIQUID FORM IT'S STABLE ENOUGH...BUT AS A GAS IT MAY DISSOLVE ANYTHING....
OR EVERYTHING!
WE LEARNED LATER, EDMUND WISS RAN HOME WHERE HE HAD A LAB AND HANDLED THE SOLVENT MORE CAREFULLY...
IN SMALL QUANTITIES IT WILL BE EASIER TO HANDLE
YET, I CAN ACCOMPLISH WHATEVER IS NECESSARY WITH THIS AMOUNT.
4


I JUST CLEANED UP IN HERE, MISTER. DON'T MESS IT ALL UP AGAIN.
SHUT UP AND DON'T BOTHER ME!

DID YOU HEAR ME? I SAID SHUT UP AND... BRIGIT?

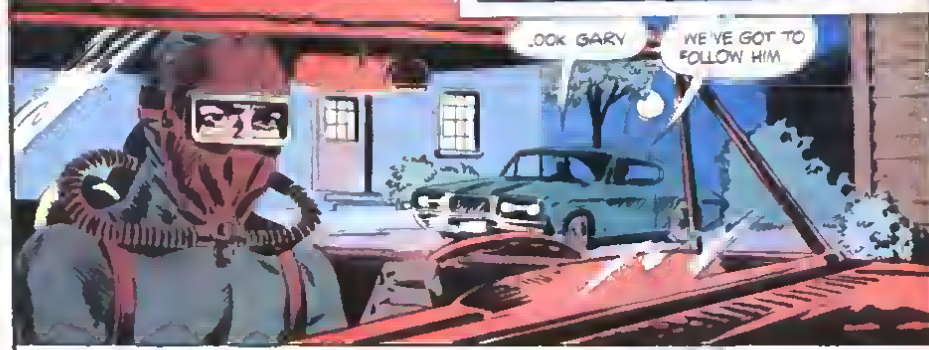

BRIGIT?
BRIGIT, WHERE ARE YOU? BRIGIT!
SHE... SHE'S GONE! DISSOLVED INTO THIN AIR!

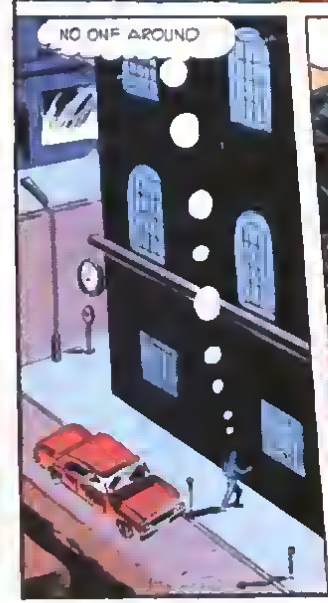
THIS STUFF WORKS: ON PEOPLE, ON STEEL, ON ANYTHING!

GLASS GLASSES AREN'T ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE FUMES! NOW... LET ME SEE...

I WONDER HOW THE NATIONAL BANK VAULT WOULD STAND UP TO THIS STUFF? I THINK WHAT I NEED IS A VAPORIZER!
IF I TELL THE POLICE, THEY'LL STOP MY EXPERIMENTS... BUT WISS MUST BE STOPPED! HOW?

THEN WE SEE EDMUND WISS...OR A WEIRD CHARACTER DRIVING A CAR AND I KNOW IT HAS TO BE WISS





NATURALLY, THE UNIVERSAL SOLVENT BANISHED THE BARS GLASS, AND EVEN PART OF THE GRANITE WALL
HEHEHEHEH
TWO SOLID FEET OF STEEL!
HEHEHEHEHEH THE STEEL IS STARTING TO RUN
DON'T YOU START TO RUN MISTER OR I'LL SLOW YOU DOWN WITH A FEW BULLETS!
WHO N...?
TURN THAT INSECTICIDE OFF, MISTER.
MY PISTOL IS BEGINNING TO... IT'S GONE!
NOT JUST GONE SIR, DISSOLVED!
STAND BACK OR YOU WILL SUFFER THE SAME FATE DO YOU HEAR ME? I SAID STAND BACK OR.
HE... HE VANISHED!

IT'S WORKING ..IN A MINUTE THE VAULT WILL LOOK LIKE AN OLD SWISS CHEESE
A GENTLEMAN NAMED WISS DID IT OFFICER! AS A ..AS AN EXPERIMENT, SORT OF! HE'S INSIDE!
YOU TWO COME ALONG WITH ME! WE'LL SEE WHAT THIS IS ABOUT
YOU WERE RIGHT. THE VAULT IS EATEN AWAY.. AND SOMEONE IS INSIDE COME OUTA THERE WITH YER HANDS UP!
HE.. HE'S NOT MOVING.
VVVVVV
STINKS IN HERE THEY'VE GOT A VENTILATION SYSTEM THAT'S BETTER
MR WISS MR. WISS, ANSWER ME! I'M GOING TO REMOVE YOUR MASK
WHY..WHY THERE'S NO ONE IN THERE? IS THIS A JOKE, MISTER?
NOT TO EDMUND WISS ISN'T, OFFICER! HE'S GONE THE UNIVERSAL SOLVENT DID IT'S WORK
ALL YOUR WORK GONE FOR NOTHING GARY
I WAS JUST WONDERING IF I PUT IT OUT IN SMALL PACKAGES IT WOULD MAKE A GREAT WART REMOVER!
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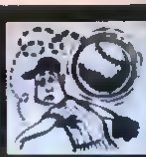

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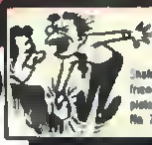

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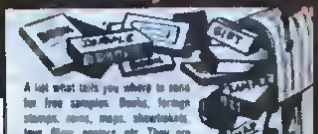

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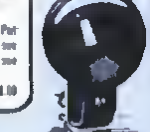

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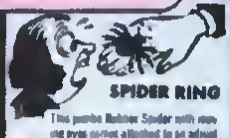

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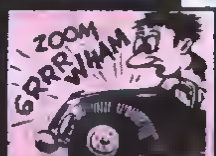

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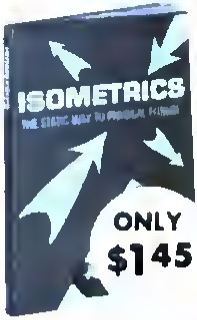

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